

Moran Announces USDA CRP Extension Decision

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran learned today that U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will offer the opportunity to modify and extend certain expiring 2009 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. On April 15, 2009, Moran recommended the Secretary make a timely decision about expiring CRP contracts would be eligible for an extension.

"Producers needed to know whether they should begin to prepare land for production or be allowed to continue to participate in the CRP contract during the next crop year," Moran said. "I thank Sec. Vilsack for making a make a timely decision about USDA's intentions with expiring 2009 CRP contracts. This will assist producers in making a more informed decision."

Sec. Vilsack announced that FSA will offer certain producers the opportunity to modify and extend CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2009. FSA will issue a three to five-year extension for approximately 1.5 million acres out of a total 3.9 million acres that are expiring this year. The option to extend a contract will be given to CRP contracts with the highest environmental benefit or with the highest potential for soil erosion.

FSA will send letters beginning May 6, 2009, to notify participants. The sign-up for this optional extension will begin on May 18, 2009, and run through June 30, 2009. Farmers and ranchers may apply for this extension at their FSA county office.

Producers opting to extend their contract period will receive their current contract rental rate. All or a portion of the entire acreage under contract may be included in a contract extension.

For more information about CRP and other FSA programs, please visit your county FSA office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> .

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